

Weekend Weather

Today: Rain -- high 43, low 36
Saturday: Partly cloudy -- high 37, low 27
Sunday: Partly cloudy -- high 39 low 23



Sorties

| Squadron | Month | Year |
|----------|-------|------|
| 8th FW | +126 | +126 |
| 35th FS | +58 | +58 |
| 80th FS | +68 | +68 |



Common Courtesies



Do not cross your arms when a Korean is talking to you. Although it's a casual posture for an American, it conveys sternness and disapproval to a Korean.



WOLF PACK
WARRIOR

Vol. 16, No. 5

Serving the members of the 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea

Feb. 23, 2001

News Briefs

SonLight Inn meal

The free meal tonight at the SonLight Inn at 6 p.m. is fried chicken, potato salad, jambalaya, cornbread, green beans, macaroni and cheese and dessert sponsored by the African-American Heritage Committee.

Snack bar hours

Because of a temporary staff shortage, the commissary will check out snack bar purchases at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. Unit snack bar representatives should plan accordingly.

Promotion ceremony

The 8th Fighter Wing promotion ceremony is 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Loring Club for airman being promoted in March. Promotees must be in place at 2:30 p.m. with their new rank affixed.

For more information call 782-4693.

PACAF awards

Congratulations to the following Pacific Air Forces award winners for 2000 from the 8th Medical Group: Capt. Nisara Suthun, Public Health Officer of the Year, and Capt. Michael Hobson, Company Grade Physical Therapist of the Year.

Limited shuttle service

The base shuttle busses will run at the following times starting Thursday: 5:30-7:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4-6 p.m. The shuttle will resume regular hours on March 2. For more information call Tech. Sgt. Peter Haugh at 782-7234

Mardi Gras

The 8th Services Squadron Falcon Community Center will sponsor a Mardi Gras costume party Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Loring Club.



Photo by Senior Airman Lanie McNeal, 8th CS/VI

Col. Timothy Collins, 8th Operations Group commander, and Capt. Alex Duboric, 8th OG Quality Assurance chief (middle) briefs Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander in chief, (left) about the condition of a hardened aircraft shelter during the general's visit to Kunsan Feb. 7.

Materiel command commander in chief addresses concerns with aging aircraft

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In today's Air Force, the average aircraft platform's age is more than 20 years old. Kunsan's F-16s are no exception. To ensure the Air Force continues to have viable warfighting platforms that can accomplish the mission, the Air Force Materiel Command is aggressively working to modify and sustain the aging fleet, the command's commander in chief said during a visit here Feb. 7.

"Our whole reason for existence is to provide assistance to the warfighter," said Gen. Lester Lyles during an interview with the Wolf Pack Warrior and American Forces Korea Network. "That support crosses from cradle to grave for every weapon we have in the Air Force inventory, from information technology systems, to F-22s, to F-16s, to F-15s."

The aging aircraft fleet is one of the biggest challenges the Air Force faces today, he said. Buying F-22s, C-17s and Joint Strike Fighters – the only platform planned to replace the F-16

– is how the Air Force plans to modernize the fleet. However, the replacement rate is such that most aircraft platforms' average age will not decrease for several years. F-16s are expected to remain in the Air Force inventory until 2024. "That puts a premium on managing our aging aircraft, systems and the fleets we have in the Air Force," the general explained. "To make sure we have a viable warfighting platform is to ensure we are making the right kind of modifications to put the right kind of equipment into the aircraft so that they can accomplish the warfighting mission." Kunsan's conversion to Block-40 F-16s is a perfect example of that, he said. "You are getting rid of the older models from the (35th Fighter Squadron), and they will have the LANTIRN (Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night)-equipped Block-40s to help do that night mission here that is so vital for the defense of the Republic of Korea."

See CINC, Page 3